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FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

To: Examiner M. Song

Company Name: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Fax Number: (703) 746-9115

From: David Ovedovitz

Date: February 24, 2003

Re: Proposed claim amendment to claim 7 for Application Serial No. 09/867,628.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED, INCLUDING COVER SHEET 2

Message: This is a DRAFT amendment for discussion during our interview. If there are any problems with this fax, please call me at (202) 721-8222. I look forward to discussing this matter with you on Wednesday, February 26, 2003.

Thanks,

Dave

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Fax Operator: J. Johnson

7. (Proposed) An apparatus for pulling a single crystal, said apparatus comprising:

- an apparatus body;
- a crucible located in said body, said crucible adapted to hold a melt;
- a lifting device being operable to lift said crucible;
- a reference reflector located inside said apparatus body;
- an optical device located outside of said apparatus body; and
- level position controlling means for controlling a level position of said crucible via said lifting device, said level position controlling means comprising:
 - diameter measuring means for measuring a diameter of the single crystal;
 - crucible ascent speed calculating means for calculating a decrease in volume of the melt based on the diameter of the single crystal measured by said diameter measuring means and a pulled crystal length of the single crystal and calculating an ascent speed of said crucible based on the decrease in volume of the melt;
 - level position measuring means for measuring an actual level position by detecting a mirror image position of said reference reflector reflect by a surface of the melt using said optical device; and
 - crucible ascent speed adjustment value calculating means for calculating an adjustment value of the ascent speed of said crucible based on an output from said level position measuring means, wherein
- said level position controlling means controls the level position of said crucible based on the ascent speed adjusted by the adjustment value when [certain] criteria for judgement are satisfied and said level position controlling means controls the level position of said crucible based on just the ascent speed when the [certain] criteria for judgement are not satisfied.